

# 20 YEARS OF

## CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES

• **Ironbound Children's Center** - ICC's first program has served over 1,000 children. The Center now provides child care services for 60 pre-schoolers while another 20 children are cared for in the homes of four family day care providers. The multi-cultural program, with a curriculum addressing the total developmental needs of the child, was one of eleven centers in the state to receive accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

• **After-School Program** — We are returning to our roots and re-establishing after-school services for 30 children, ages 5 to 10 years, between the hours of 3pm and 6pm. The program opens in October.

### **Other Youth Services:**

- Frost Valley Campership Program - 10 youth receive a 2 week camp scholarship
- Newark Community School for the Arts - music and dance classes are held in our Elm Street location
- Juvenile Conference Committee - a neighborhood resident committee meets with court referred juvenile offenders to counsel and recommend community service projects
- Peace Education Project - annual essay and poster contests for local school students on theme of world peace

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## SENIOR CITIZEN SERVICES

• **Senior Citizen Project** — It began in 1976 and now assists hundreds of senior by arranging social services and benefit programs.

• **Meals-On-Wheels** — The first delivery was in 1980 and today we serve hot meals to 103 seniors each day and frozen meals to 30 seniors on weekends for over 29,000 meals annually.

• **Home Friends** — Light housekeeping services began in 1985 and we now serve 50 seniors weekly and provide over 10,000 hours of homemaker service each year.

• **Senior Ride** — Since our first ride in October 1986, over 3,000 one-way rides have been provided for medical related appointments. We now operate daily to transport seniors within the Newark area.

• **Golden Age Clubs** — From a small program begun in 1967, the Clubs now have 300+ dues paying members. Each member participates in social activities, information workshops and receives a bag of donated groceries each month.

# COMMUNITY SERVICE

## NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH SERVICES

• **Community Information Center** — In October 1977, it opened to help residents learn and act upon their legal rights and benefits. Each year over 1,200 people receive information and referral services and various other social and health services.

• **Community Organization** — Since 1976, ICC staff organizers have worked with hundreds of residents to address local concerns and problems. In the past 13 years, ICC has joined with neighbors and prevented the construction of a hazardous waste incinerator on Lister Ave.; had numerous hazardous waste sites cleaned-up; preserved housing rights for displaced tenants of the former Prudential Apartments; kept open fire companies #8 and #16; organized crime watch groups; preserved construction funding for a new indoor swimming pool; and initiated dozens of other community service efforts. ICC staff has worked closely with the Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste, the Aspe-Riverpark Tenants Association and the Ironbound Pool Committee.

• **Community Information** — Since April 1978, "Ironbound Voices" has been published to inform people about their legal and social service rights. Issues have told many stories of groups working the better the community. The newspaper is printed ten times each year in English, Spanish and Portuguese. The 3,000 copies of each issue are distributed in local stores and business and mailed to subscribers. "Ironbound Insights" is a Newark cable television show produced by ICC. Since its first airing in December 1983, 89 half-hour shows have dealt with hundreds of topics.

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## ADULT EDUCATION

• **Adult Education Project** — The education of adults has been a concern of the organization from the start. In May 1977, we embarked upon a skills exchange program which enrolled over 50 adults in a variety of classes. The next year we formalized our course offerings when we became an extension center of Essex County College. English language and college level courses have been provided for hundreds of local adults. Students have earned degrees on a high school and associate level. Presently courses are offered each evening and on Saturday for 150 adults.

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• **Post Script:** No story of ICC can be told without mentioning the Ironbound Community School which operated between 1971 and 1988 and the Ironbound Health Screening Van which operated between 1979 and 1988. Both programs served hundreds of children with education and health services. Funding cut-backs and operation difficulties forced the closing of both. They will always be remembered.